(e) Efforts are made to import coal to meet the shortfall.

(f) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been requested for increasing the supply of natural gas/liquefied natural gas to gas based thermal power stations of NTPC.

(ii) Besides the efforts made by the Government of India, NTPC has been advised by the Ministry of Power to import 2.1 million tonnes of coal, approximately 1,75 lakh tonnes/month for a period of one year. NTPC has approached domestic/international natural gas/liquefied natural gas suppliers and developers of re-gasification facilities for sourcing gas, even through joint ventures, provided an affordable price is offered.

G-8 Round Table Meeting in London

3661. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India was invited to G-8 Round Table Meeting in London to consider the challenge of achieving a sustainable and secure energy future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India was invited by the Government of the United Kingdom to participate in the Energy and Environment Ministerial Round Table held in London on March 15 & 16, 2005. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, Member, Planning Commission and included two members from Ministry of Environment & Forests, one other respesentative from the Planning Commission and one from the High Commission of India in the U.K.

This Round Table brought together representatives both from developed as well as key developing countries to consider the challenges and opportunities for promoting sustainable energy systems.

Financial Investment in Power Sector in Maharashtra

†3662. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned Rs. 285 crore for setting up south region power transmission system;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government of Maharashtra has asked for more financial investment from Government in power sector in order to increase supply in its region like south region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) A scheme for System Strengthening-III of Southern Region Grid at an estimated cost of Rs. 284.78 crore has been approved in October, 2004. The scheme envisages the following scope of work:

(i) Raichur-Gooty 400kVD/C line (with Quad Conductors)

(ii) Nelamangla-Somanahally 400 kVD/C line

(iii) Extension of Gooty-Raichur-Nelamangla and Somanahally sub-stations.

The scheme is scheduled to be completed by April, 2007. The transmission system shall strengthen the existing transmission network in southern region and improve its stability and reliability.

(b) and (c) State Governments from time to time request for inclusion of some transmission lines for construction in the Central Sector. The Central Transmission Utility undertakes construction of inter-State transmission line within the region for ensuring stable and reliable operation of the regional grid.

The Central Transmission Utility also plans and implements inter-regional Transmission System to form the National Power Grid for transfer of power from one region to another.

Planning and implementation of transmission system within the State is the responsibility of the State Transmission Utility.

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) is implementing various transmission schemes in the Western Region including Maharashtra. PGCIL has also planned some schemes for improvement of transmission system in the Region. A list of the planned schemes along with their estimated cost is in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

These transmission schemes are planned to facilitate transfer of power from Eastern Region to Western Region, dispersal of power imported from Eastern and Northern Regions, evacuation of power from the generation stations in the Western Region and its dispersal to the beneficiary States besides ensuring reliability of power supply and security of the Grid.

Statement

List of planned schemes with their estimated card

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Estimated Cost
1.	Sipat-II Supplementary Transmission System	Rs. 813.67 crore
2.	Western Region Strengthening Scheme-II	Rs. 4931.83 crore
3.	Transmission system associated with Gandhar-II Power Project	Rs. 539.44. crore
4.	Transmission system associated with Kawas-II Power Project	Rs. 764.96 crore
5.	Western Region Strengthening Scheme-III	Rs. 70.78 crore
6.	East-West Strengthening Scheme	Rs. 690.05 crore
7.	North-West Inter-regional transmission scheme	Rs. 475.83 crore

Need for improvement in power sector

†3663. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an urgent need of improvement in power sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are laying emphasis upon the proper distribution and the proper sale-price of power for this purpose;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the country is suffering losses due to the prevalent inefficiency and corruption in the State Electricity Boards; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Electricity being a concurrent subject, supply and distribution of electricity in a State is in the purview of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned.

The National Electricity Policy issued recently by the Government of India recognizes that distribution is the most critical segment of the electricity business chain. The real challenge of reforms in the power sector lies in efficient management of the distribution sector.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.